

The Knoxville Independent

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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—secure within its folds!
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight;
Sun-kissed and wind-tossed, red and blue and white,
The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you—
Gleams all else beside—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it flies today
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Red and blue and white—the stripes forever gleam;
Snow-white and red—the good forever gleam
dramas;
Blue and true blue, with stars to gleam bright—
The glorious golden of the day; a shelter through the night.

Your Flag and my Flag! To every star and stripe
The drums beat as hearts beat and flutters shrilly pipe.
Your Flag and my Flag—a blessing in the sky;
Your hope and my hope—it never hid a lie!
Home land and far land and half the world around,
Old Glory hears our glad salute and ripples to the sound!



Entered at the postoffice at Knoxville, Tenn., as second-class matter.

Subscription Rates, by mail, one year, \$1.00; six months, 50 cents; three months, 25 cents; single copies, 2 cents.

"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

SUDDEN CHANGE NOT LIKELY

Neither Employers Nor Employees in Big Center of Industry Worried Over Situation.

Capital and labor in the Pittsburgh district are optimistic concerning the labor situation, as a result of the abrupt ending of the world war. It is the opinion of large employers of labor and labor organization leaders that no material changes will take place within the near future.

The large majority of mills holding war contracts are continuing to operate on a wartime basis, with the exception of a few plants which have discontinued overtime pay. Signs have been posted in some of the mills warning the men not to be alarmed at the sudden change in the condition of national affairs but to remain at their posts.

While it is conceded that inevitably there must be a readjustment of labor in the vast industrial district, it appears that the employers fully realize the grave dangers of cutting salaries or dumping war workers indiscriminately on the labor market with food at its present prices.

Fortunately the majority of the larger plants in the Pittsburgh district, which have been engaged in war work, are so constructed and equipped that they can be converted into peacetime industrial plants without entailing financial loss of consequence.

One development, a fundamental change in the attitude of steel men in handling labor problems, will make room for more labor. As rapidly as possible, led by the United States Steel corporation, the steel mills in the Pittsburgh district will be placed on an eight-hour basis, substituting three shifts and continuous operation of plants, for the double shift arrangement and an 11 and 12-hour day.

IRON PUDDLERS ABLE TO EARN \$25 A DAY

By the wage settlement recently between the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and the Western Bar Iron association, the wages of puddlers in mills throughout the country subscribing to the amalgamated wage agreement were increased to \$16.80 a ton. Finishers' wages were correspondingly raised. The present wage is virtually double any ever paid before the present upward movement started. A puddler and his helper are now able to earn a maximum of about \$25 a day.



1—Representatives of the soldiers and workmen's council conducting their business in the reichstag building in Berlin. 2—Russian men and women being trained as rifle shots in a free class established by the soviet government. 3—Beautiful figure of Liberty in the salon of the French ministry of foreign affairs which was re-decorated for the meetings of the peace delegates.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Ebert, Opening German National Assembly, Protests Against Harshness of Allies.

DELEGATES SHOUT APPROVAL

Huns Adopt Unique Attitude for a Conquered People—Peace Conference Makes Progress With the League of Nations—America May Be Asked to Govern Constantinople.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Chancellor Ebert, in his speech at the opening of the German national assembly at Weimar, gave expression to the growing resentment of the Germans which has already been noted and commented on. Seemingly not recognizing that Germany is a conquered nation, he protested bitterly against the "unheard of and ruthless" terms of the armistice, and went so far as to warn the allies not to push the Huns too far. His hearers applauded his utterances, and shouted their indignation when he alluded to the 500,000 prisoners of war still held by the allied nations.

The reply of the allies was swift and decisive. The supreme council at Paris at once took up the discussion of the armistice terms with the apparent intention of putting on the clamps tighter and of compelling Germany to carry out certain of the terms that she has not been complied with yet.

History does not record another example of a thoroughly whipped people assuming toward their conquerors an attitude comparable with that that the Huns are taking. Because their opponents announced they were fighting to wipe out German autocracy and militarism and because the German revolution, so called, says it has done away with these evils, the hordes seem to think the issues of the war have been settled and that they are entitled to sit in with the victors on an equality in arranging the "peace of justice" of which they now prate. Prof. Hans Delbrueck predicts that the Germans will again plunge the world into war if their country is made the "wage slave" of its enemies.

Though the peace conference's commission on the league of nations is making very considerable progress with its task, the drafting of the plans for the organization is not without serious difficulties. These last week centered in the diversity between the desires of the great powers and the claims of the smaller nations as to representation in the league. Before the close of the week it was announced the commission had agreed provisionally on the preamble and two-thirds of the articles, but what these were was not revealed.

Two general plans were laid before the commission. The first, which was favored by the small nations, provided for a legislative branch on which the large and small nations would be equally represented, each as a unit; an executive branch consisting of two members from each of the five great powers and nine members chosen from the small powers; and arbitration of international disputes by three arbitrators. In the second plan the legislative branch was left unchanged, but the executive branch was made to consist chiefly of the great powers, and instead of arbitration, there was substituted an executive council of the great powers as a tribunal for judging international issues.

In a word, the great powers fear that if all nations are given equal representation in the league, they will find themselves in the minority though their interests might be much greater, and the small powers fear that, if not equally represented, they will be swamped. But the "big five" shows signs of yielding enough to satisfy them.

Concurrently with the work on the league, the conflicting territorial

claims of the various nations are being heard and studied but the establishment of a principle on which such claims shall be decided depends so much on the creation of the league of nations that action on the report of the territory commission is not expected before the other matter is settled.

Just where the United States is going to "get off" in all this is a question that is worrying many others besides our senators, who debate it frequently. If the orders of the league are to be backed by force, it might be necessary to land European troops in a South American country, and that is in direct violation of the Monroe doctrine. If the former German colonies and parts of the Turkish empire are to be governed by mandates of the league, the United States cannot well evade some of the responsibility and might be called on to administer the affairs of Constantinople and the Dardanelles, maintaining military as well as civil forces there. Conceivably, this would arouse the bitter opposition of a considerable portion of our population, but as we, through President Wilson, are taking a leading part in the reconstruction of the world by the nations that defeated Germany, we cannot avoid shouldering our share of the resultant labor.

Another interesting angle to the situation was disclosed by the statement by British Foreign Secretary Balfour that the establishment of the league of nations would not require the abrogation of international alliances hitherto entered into. Apparently Great Britain, France and Japan are not entirely sure of the full efficacy of the league and would have their offensive and defensive alliances to fall back upon in case of need. Mr. Balfour's statement also gave rise to the opinion that the allied nations might decline to abrogate the secret treaties they entered into for the division among them of certain territories of the central powers. France is perhaps especially interested in this, as the secret treaties not only gave her Alsace-Lorraine, but also the entire coal district of the Saar valley, and provided that the German territories on the left bank of the Rhine should be freed from all political and economic dependence on Germany.

Lenine's foreign minister, Tchitcherine, has sent out a wireless message saying the soviet government is willing to participate in the proposed conference on the Princes' Islands. He also intimates that his government will cense its propaganda in other countries if the entente powers will undertake not to interfere with Russia's internal affairs. The other Russian factions, as represented at Paris, were rather surprised by Tchitcherine's action and were not at all pleased. They are strongly opposed to the conference and had hoped a refusal by the soviet government would relieve them of the necessity of rejecting the plan. The bolsheviks, or, to give them the more fitting appellation, the anarchists, in northern Russia, after a series of successes against the American and allied troops which were due to the difficulty the latter experienced in getting supplies, went a bit too far and were given a stinging defeat by the Yanks at Vistavka on the Vaga river. About the same time the Siberian troops under General Gaidar practically annihilated two divisions of the anarchists at Kungur, 50 miles southeast of Perm, relieving the latter city from the danger of attack. General Gaidar then advanced on Ufa, which the anarchists took some time ago. The central soviet of Moscow has called to the colors all men between the ages of twenty-nine and forty-five years, saying they will be thrown into the war if the conference on Prinkipo island is a failure.

In some directions the successes of the anarchists of Russia were continued. They were reported to have captured Windau, Courland's port, and to have gained control of virtually the whole of the Ukraine.

The Polish and Czech-Slovak troops that had been fighting on the Silesian front signed an armistice which, it is presumed, will permit the emissaries of the peace conference to settle the quarrel between the two nations.

The only series of the allied nations maintaining a stiff attitude toward

the German "revolution," never permitting themselves to be quoted concerning it nor paying the slightest attention to the incursions of hypocrites such as Bernstorff. But they are watching with interest the international conferences of Socialists and trades unions that are in session in Bern, Switzerland. The former seems to be virtually dominated by the pro-Tenton elements. The Trades Union conference, in which are delegates from the United States and England, is discussing international labor legislation in conjunction with the Socialists.

Turkey let out a loud wail recently in protest against the proposition to put Constantinople, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles under international control. This idea is being promulgated in Paris especially by the entente nations, and they assert that the controlling nation should be the United States as the one disinterested power that could handle the territory. The Ottoman liberal party, which has been anti-German throughout the war, asked President Wilson to save Constantinople to Turkey by giving it a chance at self-determination. Several days later the sultan himself sent a secret letter to the liberal Turks in France and Switzerland, appealing to them to return home and save their country from the starvation and lawlessness prevalent under the regime by which the nominal ruler is dominated. Many communities and municipalities under Ottoman rule have sent petitions to the American peace delegates asking that they be put under the protection of the United States.

The labor situation grew better in Great Britain and worse in the United States last week. The British public apparently awoke to the fact that the strikes there, unauthorized by the trades union authorities, were being stirred up by alien anarchist leaders and the men began returning to their work pending peaceful settlement of the disputes. The railway men and electrical workers resumed their labor in London and the city began to get relief from conditions that had nearly paralyzed it for days. In Belfast the strike leaders were arrested on conspiracy charges.

The United States was hit hardest last week at points widely separated—New York and Seattle. In the metropolis building operations were virtually tied up by a lockout declared by the Building Trades Employers' association, which affected 25,000 workers and which threatened to spread throughout the country and Canada.

In Seattle the 30,000 shipbuilders who are on strike received the support of a general strike which was started on Thursday. Practically all union laborers quit work, though the engineers in the municipal lighting plants were exempt. The textile workers in Lawrence, Mass., struck for a 48-hour week with 54 hours' pay, and some of the big cotton mills in Fall River were closed owing to disputes with the employees.

One more "greatest war revenue bill in the country's history" was presented to the house last week by Chairman Kitchin of the ways and means committee. As fixed up by the conference it provides for the collection of about \$6,000,000,000 in taxes from the American citizen, and in addition it gives a bonus of \$50 to each soldier, sailor, marine and woman nurse in the American forces. Pretty nearly everything one possesses or does will be subject to tax. Even the president and all other federal officials must pay tax on their incomes, though state officials do not.

The normal income tax for 1918 is 6 per cent on incomes up to \$4,000 and 12 per cent on higher incomes. After 1918 the normal is 4 per cent on incomes up to \$4,000 and 8 per cent on those over \$4,000. The present normal is 4 per cent.

The income surtax rates begin at 1 per cent on incomes of \$5,000 to \$9,000 and run to 65 per cent on incomes of over \$10,000,000.

Provision is made for both war and excess profits taxes in the fiscal year, but after that the war profits tax comes off, except in certain specified cases where war contracts run over in later years.

A REMINDER

Oftentimes it's mighty unhandy to make a trip to town even when you need to, so that is why we are reminding you that you can just as well transact your banking by mail when it is necessary and if you want to do so.

Remember we are always glad to see you and want you to make this bank your headquarters when you're in town. But with postage cheaper than time for many folks, and Uncle Sam a trusty messenger, our bank can be brought to you with absolute safety.

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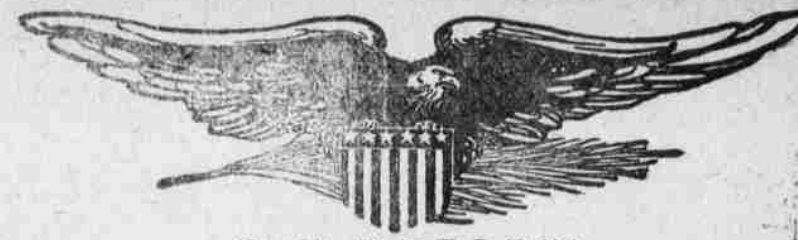


by Wilbur D. Nesbit
Author of
"Your Flag and My Flag"

A health to the fighting man! The man with a red glint in his eye—
A glint that glows to a tender gleam for the old flag in the sky.
To the man who dares—and the man who cares for the good old U. S. A.
Who bears the brunt in the battle front and hurries to the fray.
A health to him—our soldier grim—with his faith that makes his might;
Who tunes his life to the shrilling fife and knows the way to fight!

A health to the fighting man! The man all innocent of sham,
Who pays the due of a loyal heart at the shrine of Uncle Sam;
Who bears our load on the weary road that leads to a distant peace,
And asks no halt till he finds the fault, and the roars of cannon cease;
May the throb and thrum of the rolling drum be promise to his ears
Of the joyous day when he'll come away to hear a nation's cheers.

A health to the fighting man! The man with impulse clean and clear
To hold him right as a gallant knight without reproach or fear;
When the bugle sings and the bullet rings and the saber flashes bright,
May he feel the aid of the prayers prayed to guard him in the fight;
May good luck ride on either side and save him for the grasp
Of the friendly hand in his native land that's yearning for the clasp.



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"MADE IN AMERICA"

Push For Prosperity!

Every man who is out of work in America would have employment if the people of the United States confined their purchases for the next few months to goods made here.

When you buy ask where the articles are made. Reject foreign goods.

Commodities made by American labor ought to be good enough for American citizens.

Railroad telegraphers probably will receive soon a wage increase of between \$20 and \$25 a month, it was said by railroad administration officials.

Plans for the organization of a national federation of manufacturers' councils, to meet war-time and after-the-war emergencies, have been announced.

Since April 1 eight unions of painters, decorators and paperhangers have been organized in Canada, all of them affiliated with their international organization.

During the year ended June 30, 1916, wages amounting to \$30,576,623.42 were paid to 48,588 employees on both railways and tramways in New South Wales, Australia.